

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 April 2004 (08.04.2004)

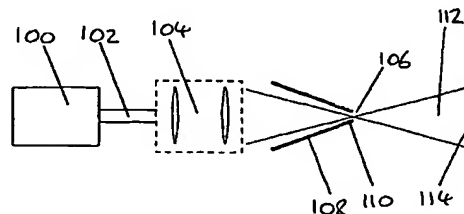
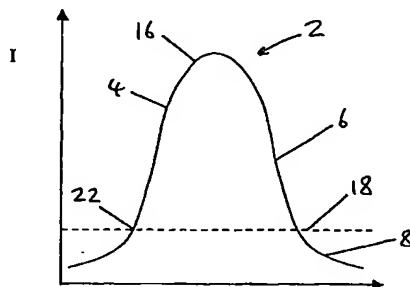
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/029990 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G21F 9/28**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2003/004168
- (22) International Filing Date:
26 September 2003 (26.09.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0222342.8 26 September 2002 (26.09.2002) GB
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
- Published:**
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
3 June 2004

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SURFACE TREATMENT OF CONCRETE



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and an apparatus for treating a surface for the removal of a surface portion thereof, comprising the steps of producing a beam of laser light and obscuring a low power density part of the laser beam before irradiating a surface location with the laser light so as to remove the surface portion. The apparatus for treating a surface for the removal of a surface portion thereof, comprises a laser source for producing a laser beam for irradiating a surface location with laser light so as to remove the surface portion wherein a low power density part of the laser beam is obscured and does not impinge upon the surface. The obscuration may be effected by a shadow mask and/or a reflective mask.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/04168

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G21F9/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G21F B08B B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal; PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 2002/134770 A1 (YOUNGMAN KEVIN ET AL) 26 September 2002 (2002-09-26) paragraph '0048! - paragraph '0054!; figure 4	1,2,4-27
X	US 5 780 806 A (PANG HO-MING ET AL) 14 July 1998 (1998-07-14) the whole document	1,2,4-27
X	GB 2 316 528 A (COMMISSARIAT ENERGIE ATOMIQUE) 25 February 1998 (1998-02-25) the whole document	1,2,4-27
X	US 6 056 827 A (SHIMIZU KOUKI ET AL) 2 May 2000 (2000-05-02) the whole document	1,2,4-27
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/04/2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 653 762 A (BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PLC) 17 May 1995 (1995-05-17) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-27
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 107 (P-1179), 14 March 1991 (1991-03-14) & JP 03 002595 A (SCIENCE & TECH AGENCY), 8 January 1991 (1991-01-08) cited in the application abstract -----	1-27